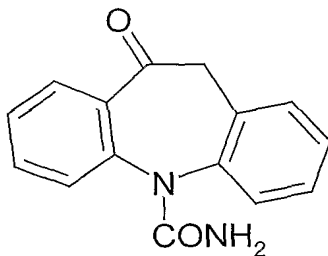


WE CLAIM

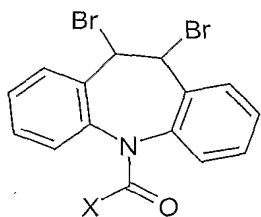
1. A process for preparing 10,11-dihydro-10-oxo-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5- carboxamide, compound of formula I,



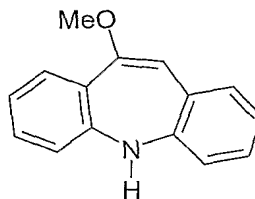
Formula I

5 said process comprising

- (a) reacting compound of formula IVb with alkali metal methoxide to yield compound of formula II; and



Formula IVb (X=Cl, Br)

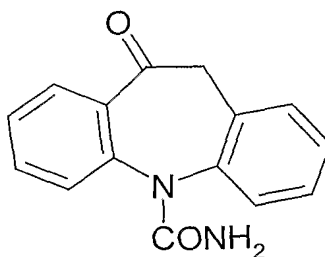


Formula II

- (b) converting compound of formula II to compound of formula I.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein in step (a) the alkali metal methoxide is selected from sodium methoxide and potassium methoxide.
3. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein in step (a) the molar ratio of compound of formula IVb to alkali metal methoxide is about 1:12 to 1:15.
4. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein step (a) is carried out for about 16 to 20 hours.

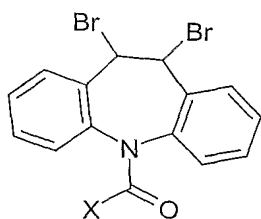
5. A process for preparing 10,11-dihydro-10-oxo-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carboxamide, compound of formula I,



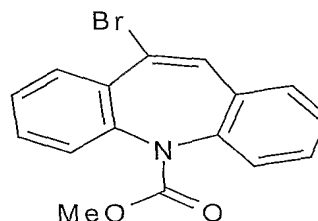
Formula I

said process comprising

- 5 (a) dehydrobrominating and esterifying compound of formula IVb to give compound of formula VI; and



Formula IVb (X=Cl, Br)



Formula VI

- 10 (b) converting compound of formula VI to compound of formula I.

6. A process as claimed in claim 5 wherein step (a) is carried out with alkali metal methoxide.

- 15 7. A process as claimed in claim 6 wherein alkali metal methoxide is selected from sodium methoxide and potassium methoxide.

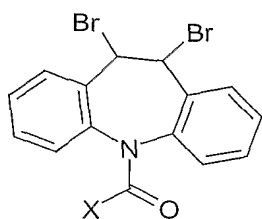
8. A process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the molar ratio of compound of formula IVb

to alkali metal methoxide is about 1 : 2 to 1 : 3.

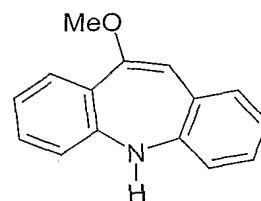
9. A process as claimed in claim 5 wherein in step (a) is carried out for about 2 to 5

5 hours.

10. A process for preparing compound of formula II, said process comprising reacting compound of formula IVb with alkali metal methoxide to yield compound of formula II.



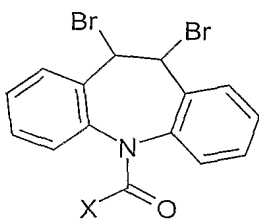
Formula IVb (X=Cl, Br)



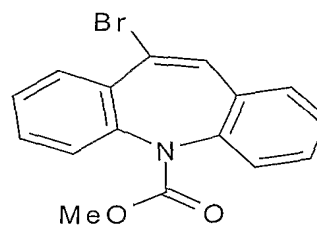
Formula II

11. A process for preparing compound of formula VI, said process comprising dehydrobrominating and esterifying compound of formula IVb to give compound of

15 formula VI.



Formula IVb (X=Cl, Br)



Formula VI

12. A process as claimed in claim 11 wherein dehydrobromination and esterification is

carried out with alkali metal methoxide.

13. A process for the preparation of compound of formula I as claimed in claims 1 to 12 substantially as herein described and illustrated by examples 1 to 3.

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